

Mr. HOBSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will take 20 1-minutes on each side.

THE CONTRACT: BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, for 2 months now, this Congress has been held hostage by the extremist trickle-down manifesto known as the Contract With America. Democrats have been saying all along that the American people do not need this contract. What they need are good jobs at good wages, more police to fight the scourge of violent crime, and access to affordable health care.

Republican pollsters who wrote the contract thought they knew better, but a New York Times poll published today makes it perfectly clear. If the Republicans really want to follow the will of the people, it is time to go back to the drawing board. First of all, more than half of all Americans have not even heard of the contract. So much for the Republican mandate. And on issue after issue, we find a wholesale rejection of the contract's extremist planks.

Americans overwhelmingly want the Federal commitment to 100,000 cops on the beat that the Republicans voted down. Americans overwhelmingly oppose a balanced budget amendment that puts Social Security on the chopping block as the contract does. Americans overwhelmingly oppose welfare reform that is tough on children but weak on work.

I suppose that is the problem with the Republican politics-of-opinion polls. When you live by the poll, you also die by the poll.

Based on today's poll results, I would offer these final words on the Contract With America: May it rest in peace, and now let us get down to the real business of the American people.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. HOBSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget.

We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we kept our promise; line-item veto—we kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—we are doing this now; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

Mr. Speaker, this is our contract, we are doing it and living up to it, and I believe it is alive and well.

POLL DOUSES CONTRACT AND GINGRICH REVOLUTION

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every morning Republicans come to this floor and read NEWT GINGRICH's Contract With America.

But this morning's New York Times throws a bucket of ice water on both the contract and the Gingrich revolution.

In a poll released this morning, the American people say that the contract is:

Too extreme, too mean spirited, and out of touch with the priorities of the American people.

When asked what our priorities should be the American people say: jobs, health care, and crime.

Yet, after 55 days of Republican rule, and after casting over 150 votes, we have not passed a single amendment that deals with jobs or health care.

And nearly 6 of 10 Americans say the Republican idea to pull 100,000 police off the streets is a bad idea.

Mr. Speaker, this poll confirms what we have always known: The Contract With America will not make a dime's worth of difference in the lives of middle-class families.

Republicans can talk about the contract all they want.

But the longer we go, the more it becomes clear: Americans do not like what they are hearing.

COMMON SENSE NEEDED IN REGULATORY PROCESS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, did you hear the one about the guy who was fined by OSHA for not having a

comprehensive hazardous communication plan for his employees—all two of them.

How about the \$100,000 spent on a study of quiet areas in restaurants.

Or the OSHA fine levied against a small business because they had a can of Pledge in a work trailer with no material safety data sheet on hand.

And, one of my favorites, the construction company that was fined because workers were not using disposable cups.

These are all great stories—and they would be very entertaining if they did not symbolize such a job crunching, budget busting, competition killing, business breaking, economic catastrophe in America.

It is time to restore common sense and civility to the regulatory process. The cost of doing nothing is too high for individuals and businesses in America. Let us act now.

IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN'S NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had an opportunity to speak to 95 3-year-olds and today I speak in their behalf, for the school lunch program that has worked well since 1946. It is not broken. America's children are our most important resource for the future.

Mr. Speaker, studies show that if a child is hungry, taxpayer dollars are wasted because hungry kids cannot learn. According to the Children's Defense Fund, millions of children will go hungry by cutting school lunches, food stamps, child care, Head Start meals, and WIC programs. Republican double-talk that "cuts to school lunches" are not "cuts," but block grants to States, and deceives the American people. As a 10-year veteran of the Florida legislature, I can tell you that sending Federal dollars to the States as block grants does not ensure that these funds will go to child nutrition programs.

Republicans seem to think they can fool some of the people, some of the time. But you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. The American people cannot be fooled. The Contract on America is a contract on children, the elderly and the hardest working Americans.

The school lunch program works, it feeds hungry children. As the saying goes, "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

FEDERAL REGULATIONS SHOULD USE COMMON SENSE

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, allow me to read a few OSHA rules written